

Message Text

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ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 NEA-10 ADP-00 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 RSC-01 INT-08 COME-00 SCEM-02 TRSE-00 PM-09

DODE-00 RSR-01 /088 W

----- 081770

R 161641 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 173

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

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E. O.: 11652: N/ A DECON 12/31/75

TAGS: ENRG FR NI LE US

SUBJ: PETROLEUM: CRUDE PURCHASES BY INTERMEDIARIES

1. EDWARD THOMAS, 60 W. 57 TH STREET, NEW YORK, STOPPED AT EMBASSY MAY 14 TO OBTAIN LIST OF U. S. REFINERS AND OIL DEALERS. THOMAS CLAIMED HE HAD A TWO YEAR CONTRACT FOR TWO MILLION TONS OF NIGERIAN CRUDE PER YEAR. HE SAID THAT HE WAS ALSO NEGOTIATING PURCHASE OF TWO MILLION TONS OF CRUDE FROM LEBANON. THOMAS WANTED REFINERS LIST SO HE COULD MAKE OFFERS.

2. THOMAS SAID HE WAS FORMER TRADER ON N. Y. STOCK EXCHANGE AND NOW IN IMPORT- EXPORT BUSINESS. HE SAID THAT HE HAS BEEN IN OIL FOR ONLY SIX WEEKS BUT IT WAS CLEAR TO HIM THAT THERE WAS A FORTUNE TO BE MADE IF ONE HAD CRUDE TO SELL. HE NOTED THAT HE HAD GOOD CONNECTIONS AND BELIEVED HE COULD OBTAIN CRUDE BUT WAS UNWILLING TO GO INTO DETAILS.

3. WHEN ASKED IF THERE SEEMED TO BE A GREAT DEAL OF ACTIVITY BY INTERMEDIARIES SUCH AS HIMSELF IN THE MARKET
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HE RESPONDED THAT HE KNEW OF SIMILAR ACTIVITY AND CLAIMED THAT A GREAT DEAL OF UNDER- THE- TABLE PAYMENTS WERE TAKING PLACE IN NIGERIA TO OBTAIN CRUDE THERE.

4. COMMENT: THE ABOVE INTERVIEW MAY BE FAIRLY ROUTINE FOR POSTS IN OIL PRODUCING COUNTRIES BUT IN CONTEXT OF OIL SITUATION EMBASSY THOUGHT IT WORTH REPORTING.
IRWIN

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NMAFVVZCZ

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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